

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 898

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor Bobby O'Jay on the occasion of his
thirty-fifth anniversary with WDIA Memphis.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a forty-five-year veteran of radio broadcasting who is a living legend among his colleagues and listeners; and

WHEREAS, Bobby O'Jay recently celebrated his thirty-fifth anniversary as an on-air personality and program director at WDIA Memphis, 1070 AM, having filled this dual role at the station since February 1983; and

WHEREAS, WDIA, "The Heart and Soul of Memphis," also celebrated its seventieth anniversary as the first U.S. radio station programmed for an African-American audience, featuring classic rhythm and blues and soul music; and

WHEREAS, a native of Batesville, Mississippi, Bobby O'Jay chose his career path while listening to WDIA as a youth; he spent a decade in broadcasting at radio stations across the nation before landing his dream job with WDIA; and

WHEREAS, the host of WDIA's morning drive-time show, Mr. O'Jay is sometimes controversial but always entertaining in his freewheeling style, and the show consistently receives some of the highest ratings in the Memphis market; and

WHEREAS, he has been honored by *Billboard*, *IMPACT*, *Radio & Records*, *Black Radio Exclusive*, Jack The Rapper, Young Black Programmers, Urban Network, and *Inside Radio* and has received a Living Legends Award in appreciation of his immense talent and influence in radio broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, Bobby O'Jay has served as a mentor and inspiration to many of his young colleagues over the years, and he is, without a doubt, a giant in the radio industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Jay shared many years of happiness with his wife, Sharon, before her untimely passing; he is fortunate to share love and companionship with his children, Bonita, Kacey, Chandi, Joey, Nicholas, and Joshua; and

WHEREAS, a thirty-five-year tenure at one station is unheard of in radio, yet Mr. O'Jay has achieved this milestone while serving in two positions, with plenty of talent and energy to spare, and he should be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Bobby O'Jay on the occasion of his thirty-fifth anniversary as program director and on-air personality with WDIA Memphis, "The Heart and Soul of Memphis," salute his exemplary career in radio broadcasting, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.